ROCKET RACCOON® & GROOT™ 8

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CIVIL WAR II

ROCKET RACCOON & GROOT

PART I OF THE BAD SOUTHERN PUN TRILOGY: "GEORGIA O'THIEF"

ROCKET RACCOON AND GROOT ARE BEST FRIENDS ALL THE TIME. THEY ARE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY MOST OF THE TIME. THEY ARE HEROES...LET'S SAY...AT LEAST HALF THE TIME. SOMETIMES THEY'RE BOUNTY HUNTERS, WHICH IS KIND OF A GRAY AREA.

EARTH'S HEROES PREVENTED A CATACLYSMIC EVENT THANKS TO A NEW INHUMAN NAMED ULYSSES, WHO SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO PREDICT THE FUTURE. NOW, EARTH'S GREATEST CHAMPIONS ARE FORCED TO MAKE A CHOICE: **PROTECT** THE FUTURE...OR **CHANGE** IT?

FORMER GOTG TEAMMATE AND CURRENT COMMANDER OF ALPHA FLIGHT CAPTAIN MARVEL WANTS TO **CHANGE** THE FUTURE TO **PROTECT** THE STUFF IN IT. SHE'S ASKED ALL HER ALLIES TO HELP RESPOND TO ULYSSES' PREDICTIONS, INCLUDING THE GUARDIANS. ROCKET PILOTS THEIR SHIP, AND CAROL COULDN'T JUST ASK HIM AND GROOT TO WAIT OUTSIDE.

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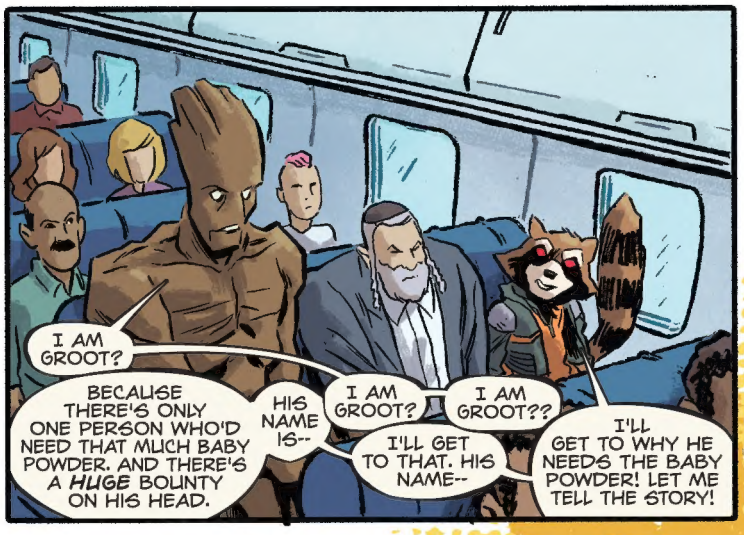
OKAY, LISTEN UP, THIS IS IMPORTANT. ULYSSES PREDICTED THAT IN TWO DAYS THERE WILL BE AN INVASION OF <BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH>
PSST. I'M A LITTLE SHAKY ON EVERYBODY'S NAME. WHO'S THIS BALD GUY?
THAT'S PUCK.
WHAT'S HIS STORY?
HE'S GOOD AT CART-WHEELS.
THAT'S IT? HE SMELLS LIKE GARBAGE.
DON'T RACCOONS LIKE GARBAGE?
I'M NOT A RACCOON!

<BLAH BLAH BLAH> BEAST IS IN CHARGE OF PREEMPTIVELY EVACUATING THE CITY, AND REMEMBER <BLAH BLAH BLAH>
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH WOLVERINE, DID HE STOP SHAVING?
HUH? ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT SASQUATCH?
OH. WHERE'S WOLVERINE?
SHE'S OFF DOING HER OWN THING.
WOLVERINE'S A GIRL NOW?!
I AM GROOT!
<BLAH BLAH BLAH> THE INVADING ALIENS' WEAKNESS IS <BLAH BLAH BLAH> SO, BLUE MARVEL, MAKE SURE YOU <BLAH BLAH>
OKAY, AND NOW REMIND ME WHAT THE DIFFERENCE IS BETWEEN A MUTANT AND AN INHUMAN.
SHH! DID SHE JUST SAY MY NAME?
NO, SHE SAID BLUE MARVEL.
I AM BLUE MARVEL!
YOU'RE BLUE MARVEL? I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE TICK.
<BLAH BLAH BLAH> LILYSSES ALSO SAID AT THE START OF THE INVASION A TRUCK OF BABY POWDER WILL BE STOLEN FROM A FACTORY IN RURAL GEORGIA, BUT WE PROBABLY DON'T NEED TO ABOUT TH--
WHOA! HEY! DIBS!
WE GOT DIBS ON THE BABY POWDER THING!
I AM GROOT?

YOU TWO... WANT TO GO TO RURAL GEORGIA... TO STOP A BABY POWDER THIEF?
UH... YEAH.
WHY?
WHY??? TO STOP CRIME! ISN'T THAT WHAT WE DO?
IF WE JUST STAND IDLY BY IN THIS BABY POWDER FACTORY'S TIME OF NEED...WHY, WE'RE JUST AS GUILTY AS THE THIEF HIMSEL--
RIGHT. AND WHAT'S THE ACTUAL REASON?
...THE WHAT?
WHAT'S THE SECRET SELF-SERVING REASON YOU ACTUALLY WANT TO TAKE THIS?
WHAT? I'M INSULTED! WHY DOES THERE HAVE TO BE SOME--
WHATEVER. I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS. GO STOP THE THIEF, DO THE SECRET THING YOU ACTUALLY WANT TO DO, BUT BE BACK BEFORE THE INVASION OF--
<BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH>
...ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?!
YEAH! INVASION SOMETHING. WHICH SHIP DO WE TAKE?
NONE. YOU CAN FLY COMMERCIAL. COACH. KEEP YOUR RECEIPTS AND WE'LL REIMBURSE.
COACH?!
I'LL NEED TO REACH YOU IN CASE WE NEED HELP WITH SOMETHING ACTUALLY IMPORTANT INSTEAD OF YOUR STUPID SECRET PLAN.
AND KEEP THESE COMMUNICATORS ON YOU AT ALL TIMES.
THERE'S NO--
I KNOW THERE'S A SECRET SELF-SERVING PLAN.
"OF COURSE THERE'S A SECRET SELF-SERVING PLAN!"


I AM GROOT?
BECAUSE THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON WHO'D NEED THAT MUCH BABY POWDER. AND THERE'S A *HUGE* BOUNTY ON HIS HEAD.
HIS NAME IS--
I AM GROOT?
I'LL GET TO THAT. HIS NAME--
I AM GROOT??
I'LL GET TO WHY HE NEEDS THE BABY POWDER! LET ME TELL THE STORY!

HI. I'M A LOSER.
"HIS NAME'S CHAMMY. HE'S A LOW-LEVEL LOSER SPACE SMUGGLER FROM SOME NOSELESS ALIEN RACE."
"HE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST BOUNTIES I EVER TRIED TO COLLECT.

"SO YOUNG ME CATCHES HIM IN A DESERT..."
FREEZE, SUCKA!

"...OR MAYBE IT WAS UNDER-WATER? I FORGET..."
FREEZE, SUCKA!

AFTER AN EPIC BATTLE, I THROW HIM IN THE BRIG AND FLY HIM TO--
I AM GROOT?
I'M GETTING TO IT! ANYHOW--
WHY DID YOU GO INTO SO MUCH DETAIL ABOUT YOUR MUSCLES?
MIND YOUR BUSINESS. *ANYHOW*...

"WHEN I GO TO GET CHAMMY OUT OF THE BRIG...
"HE'S GONE!
"THE CELL'S EMPTY. NO TRACE OF ANYTHING BUT A PUDDLE OF WATER.
"IT WAS SUPER EMBARRASSING."

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR HIM EVER SINCE. THIS TIME I WON'T--
I AM GROOT?!
UGH! FINE. HE USES IT AS FUEL. HE FLIES A SPACESHIP POWERED BY...BABY POWDER.
YOU HAPPY? YOU COMPLETELY RUINED THE MOMENTUM OF THE STORY--
HOW IS A SHIP POWERED BY BABY POWDER??
NO ONE'S TALKING TO YOU!
OKAY, MR. ROCKET. LOOKS LIKE YOUR EMPLOYER RESERVED YOU THE STATION WAGON--
A STATION WAGON? FOR FLARK'S SAKE. IS ALPHA FLIGHT LOW ON CASH OR SOMETHING?!
MERPZ Rentals
LATER. AT THE BABY POWDER FACTORY.
NO SIGN OF HIM YET.
I AM GROOT?
YEAH, IT'S GOTTA BE CHAMMY! IT BETTER NOT BE SOME RANDOM CROOK WITH A DIAPER RASH. HEY, LOOK!
"THERE HE IS!"

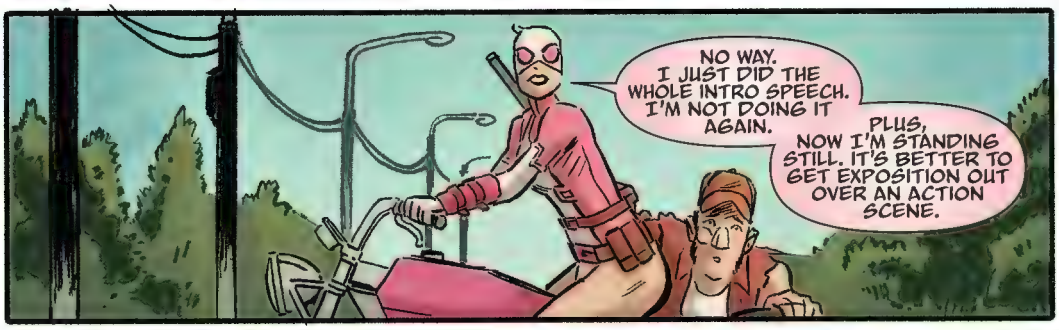
OKAY. AS SOON AS HE LEAVES THE BUILDING WE GRAB HIM.
THIS IS ALMOST GONNA BE TOO EASY--
VRMM
WHAT THE HELL?
KRSH
IS THAT RELATED TO OUR THING?
FLARK. GUESS SO.
KSHH

HELLO, READERS! MY NAME'S GWEN POOLE! OR GWENPOOL IF YOU'RE IN A HURRY. ANYHOW, I'M NEW TO THIS UNIVERSE--
WHAT'S GOING ON?! WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?!
QUIET. I'M DOING MY INTRO WHILE *RIDING A MOTORCYCLE*. DON'T DISTRACT ME.

VRRM
NOW, WHERE WAS I? OH, RIGHT...
FUMP
VRRM
SO, I USED TO BE LIKE YOU. JUST A REGULAR COMIC BOOK READER.
THEN ONE DAY I WAS A CHARACTER.
SKREEEEEE
AND COMIC BOOK CHARACTERS THAT AREN'T HEROES... DON'T DO TOO WELL.
SO I POPPED OFF MY PANTS AND POPPED ON A MASK. NOW I'M A HERO!
ISN'T THERE MORE YOU HAVE TO DO?!
HONESTLY, NOT REALLY.
CRUNK!
THE BEST PART OF THIS COMIC BOOK UNIVERSE, ASIDE FROM THE NOT-EVER-HAVING-ANY-CELLULITE-EVER PART...
...IS THAT IT'S DESIGNED FOR HEROES! LIKE ME! FOR EXAMPLE...
SEE! DIDN'T DIE!
WUMP

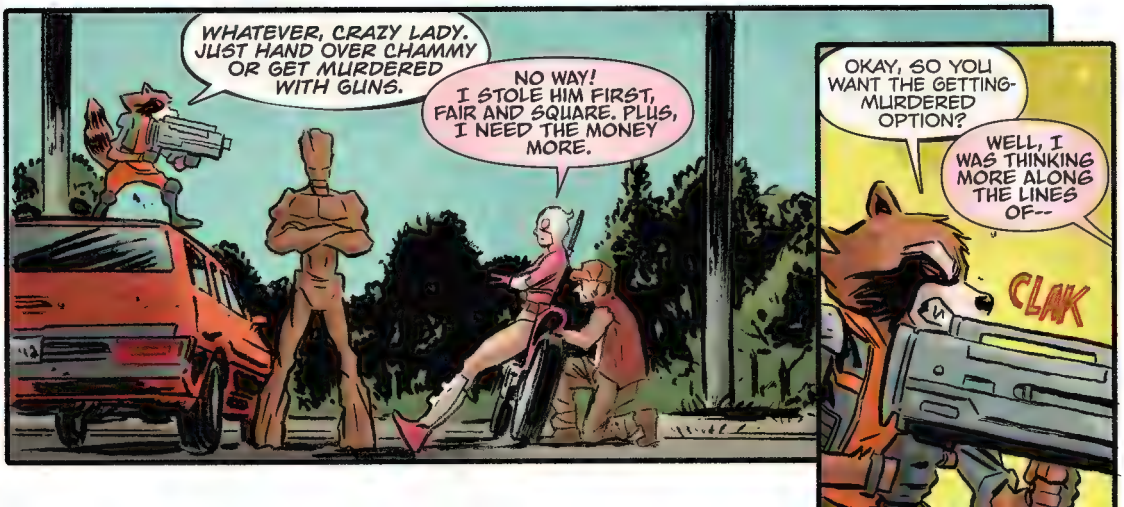
THIS PROBABLY KILLS A CAR RIGHT?
STABBY STAB-STABS
SHOOTY SHOOT SHOOT
AND I BET THESE BULLETS HIT SOMETHING CONVENIENT AND VILLAINOUS!
CRAW
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
DID THEY? IT'S COOLER IF I DON'T LOOK.
KRUNCH
IT'S NOT A LOT BETTER THAN NOT HAVING CELLULITE, BUT IT'S STILL PRETTY COOL.
FREEZE, SUCKA!
SKREEE

SO WHICH ONE ARE YOU?
IS CABLE ALSO A GIRL NOW?

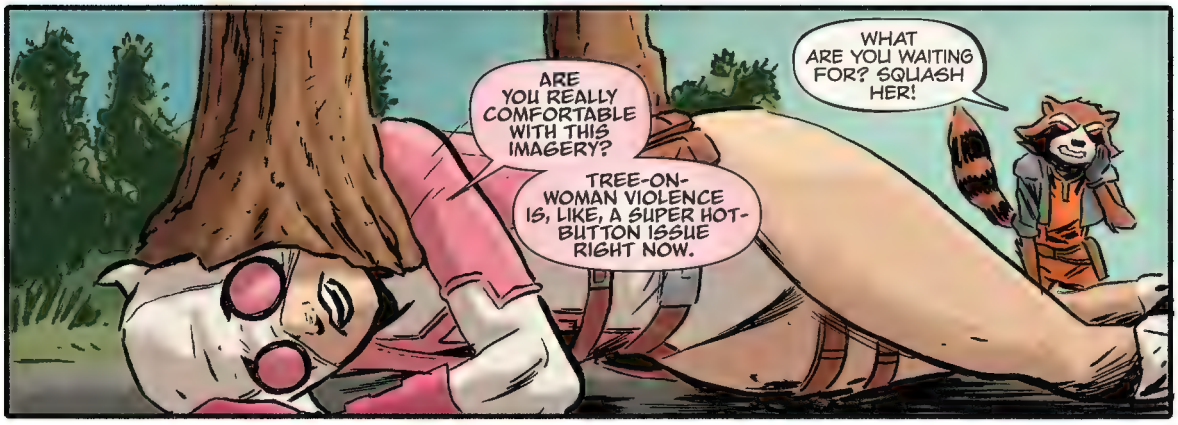

NO WAY. I JUST DID THE WHOLE INTRO SPEECH. I'M NOT DOING IT AGAIN.
PLUS, NOW I'M STANDING STILL. IT'S BETTER TO GET EXPOSITION OUT OVER AN ACTION SCENE.

SO... YOU'RE A MENTAL PATIENT?
I AM GROOT.
ALL RIGHT, SURE, AN ATHLETIC MENTAL PATIENT.

AND YOU'RE... TREE AND THE SQUIRREL!
NO, I'M A RACCOON--I MEAN, I'M NOT A RACCOON-- I MEAN, I'M NOT A SQUIRREL!
SO, YOU'RE TREE, THEN? THAT'S REALLY A BETTER NAME FOR THE TALL GUY.
I AM GROOT!
THEN WHO'S SQUIRREL?


WHATEVER, CRAZY LADY. JUST HAND OVER CHAMMY OR GET MURDERED WITH GUNS.
NO WAY! I STOLE HIM FIRST, FAIR AND SQUARE. PLUS, I NEED THE MONEY MORE.
OKAY, SO YOU WANT THE GETTING-MURDERED OPTION?
WELL, I WAS THINKING MORE ALONG THE LINES OF--
CLAK

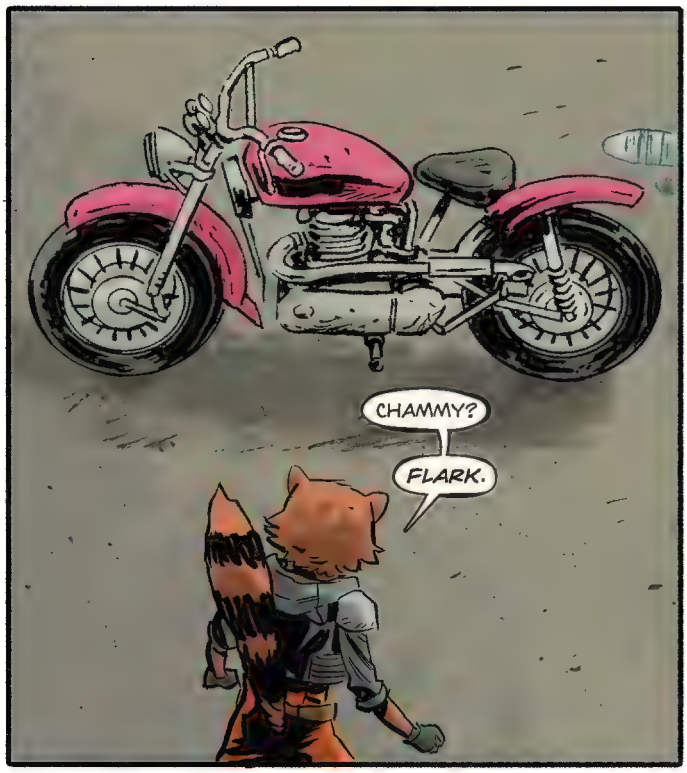
--SWORD!
SHUK
SPLIT KICK!
PONK
THNK
REGULAR KICK!
WUMP
THOP
SLAP?
SWORD AGAIN!
THUK
WUMP
I AM GROOT!


ARE YOU REALLY COMFORTABLE WITH THIS IMAGERY?
TREE-ON-WOMAN VIOLENCE IS, LIKE, A SUPER HOT-BUTTON ISSUE RIGHT NOW.
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? SQUASH HER!

I AM GROOT?
OF COURSE SHE'S A VILLAIN!
NO, NO! I'M A GOOD GUY! JUST ETHICALLY AMBIGUOUS! TRUST ME, I ONLY KILL BAD GUYS!
WE JUST SAW YOU KILL INNOCENT BIRDS!
THEY WERE CROWS! CROWS ARE EVIL BIRDS!

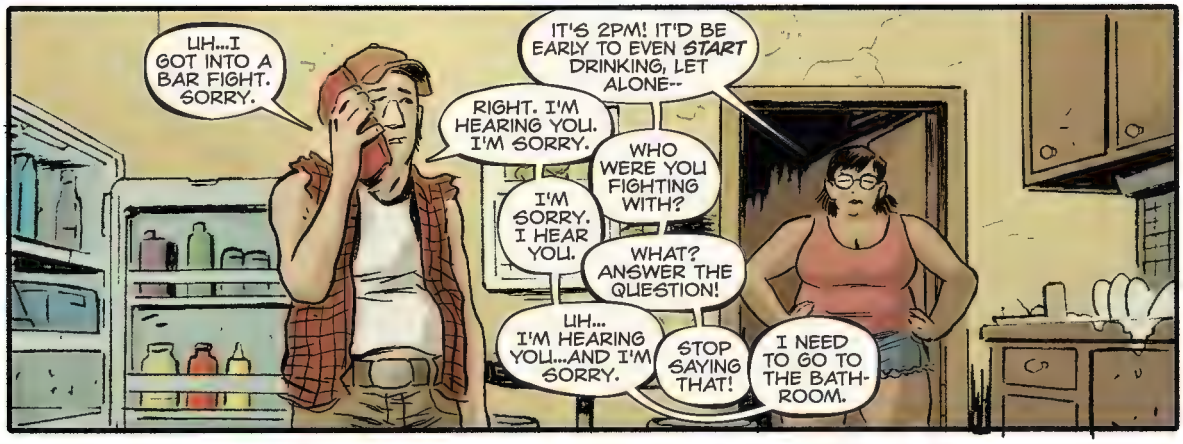
C'MON. PLEEASE, TREE! I LIKE YOUR HAIR-BRANCHES!
I AM GROOT.

REALLY?! JUST LIKE THAT YOU FORGIVE HER?
I AM GROOT.
DON'T MAKE THIS ABOUT US, I COMPLIMENT YOU ALL THE TIME!
WHATEVER, LET'S JUST TAKE CHAMMY AND--

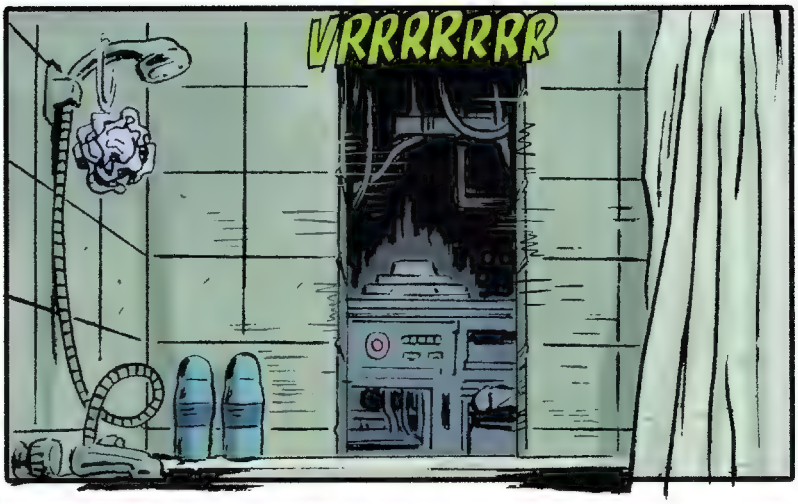

CHAMMY?
FLARK.

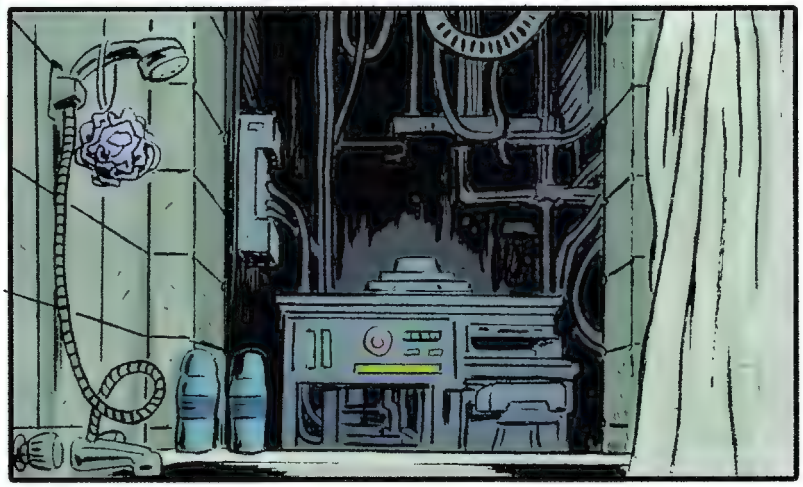
LATER, NERDS!
I AM GROOT?
DOUBLE-FLARK!

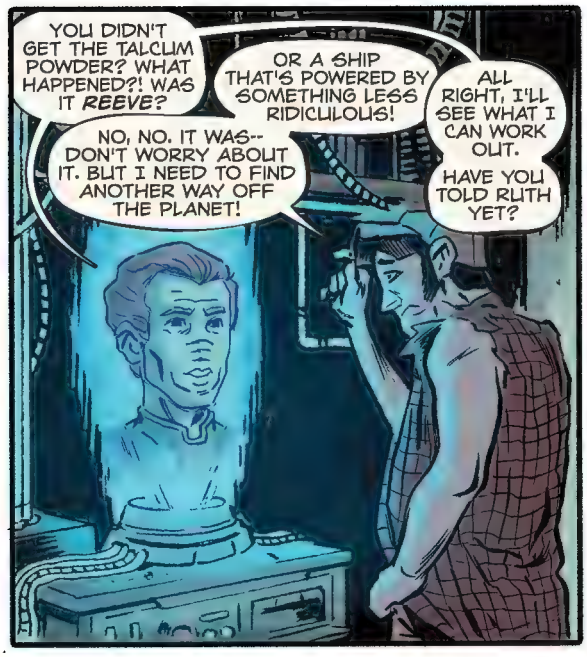
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?


UH...I GOT INTO A BAR FIGHT. SORRY.
IT'S 2PM! IT'D BE EARLY TO EVEN START DRINKING, LET ALONE--
RIGHT. I'M HEARING YOU. I'M SORRY.
WHO WERE YOU FIGHTING WITH?
I'M SORRY. I HEAR YOU.
WHAT? ANSWER THE QUESTION!
UH... I'M HEARING YOU...AND I'M SORRY.
STOP SAYING THAT!
I NEED TO GO TO THE BATHROOM.

WHAT DO YOU DO IN THAT BATHROOM? YOU SPEND WAY TOO MUCH TIME IN THERE!
CLIK

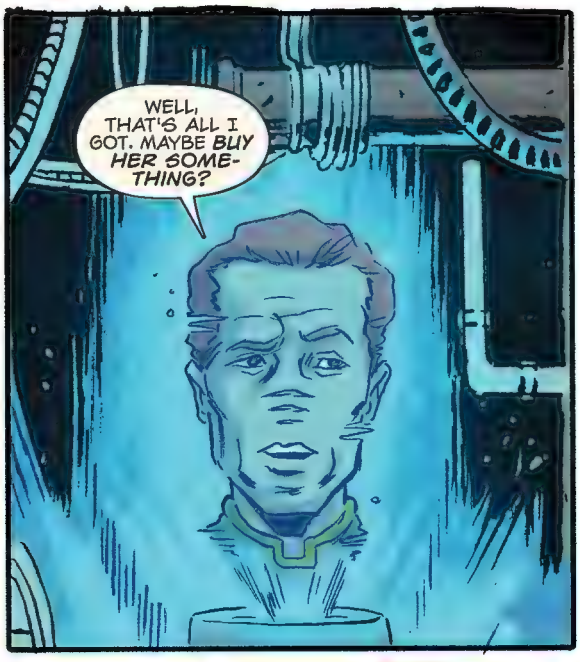

VRRRRRRR




YOU DIDN'T GET THE TALCUM POWDER? WHAT HAPPENED?! WAS IT REEVE?
NO, NO. IT WAS-- DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. BUT I NEED TO FIND ANOTHER WAY OFF THE PLANET!
OR A SHIP THAT'S POWERED BY SOMETHING LESS RIDICULOUS!
ALL RIGHT, I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN WORK OUT.
HAVE YOU TOLD RUTH YET?

NOT YET. BUT SHE DEFINITELY KNOWS SOMETHING'S UP.
WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING.

MMM, WELL, EARTH WOMEN ARE DIFFICULT. DID YOU APOLOGIZE AND LET HER KNOW THAT YOU HEAR HER?
LIKE TEN TIMES! I MUST BE DOING IT WRONG BECAUSE IT'S ONLY MAKING HER ANGRIER.

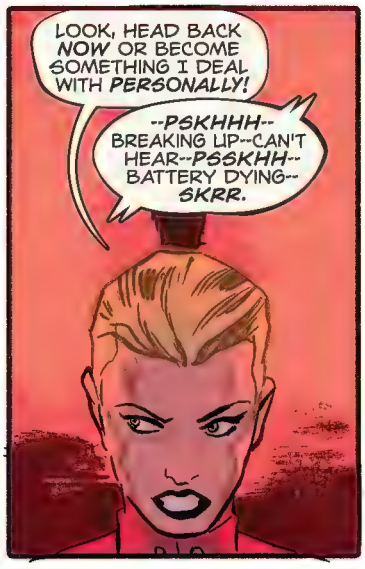

WELL, THAT'S ALL I GOT. MAYBE BUY HER SOMETHING?

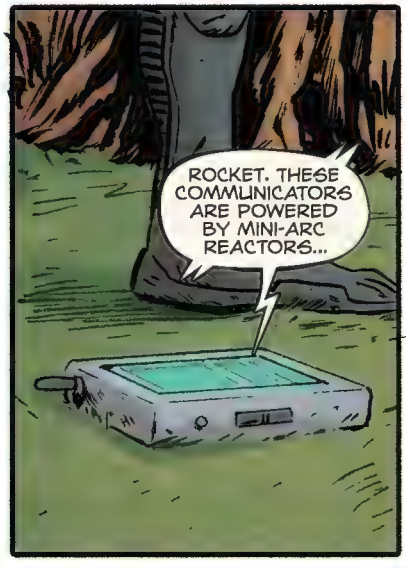
KRUNK
KRAK
"AND THEN I FINISHED THEM OFF WITH THIS AWESOME SPLIT KICK..."

...AND TOTALLY SAVED THE DAY. IT WAS AWESOME, CAROL.
WHY DID YOU GO INTO SO MUCH DETAIL ABOUT YOUR MUSCLES? I KNOW THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE.

WELL, I JUST WANTED TO PAINT A FULL PICTURE--
WHATEVER. CONGRATS ON STOPPING THE SUPER-DANGEROUS BABY POWDER THIEF.
NOW GET BACK TO NEW YORK, WE'RE SWAMPED!

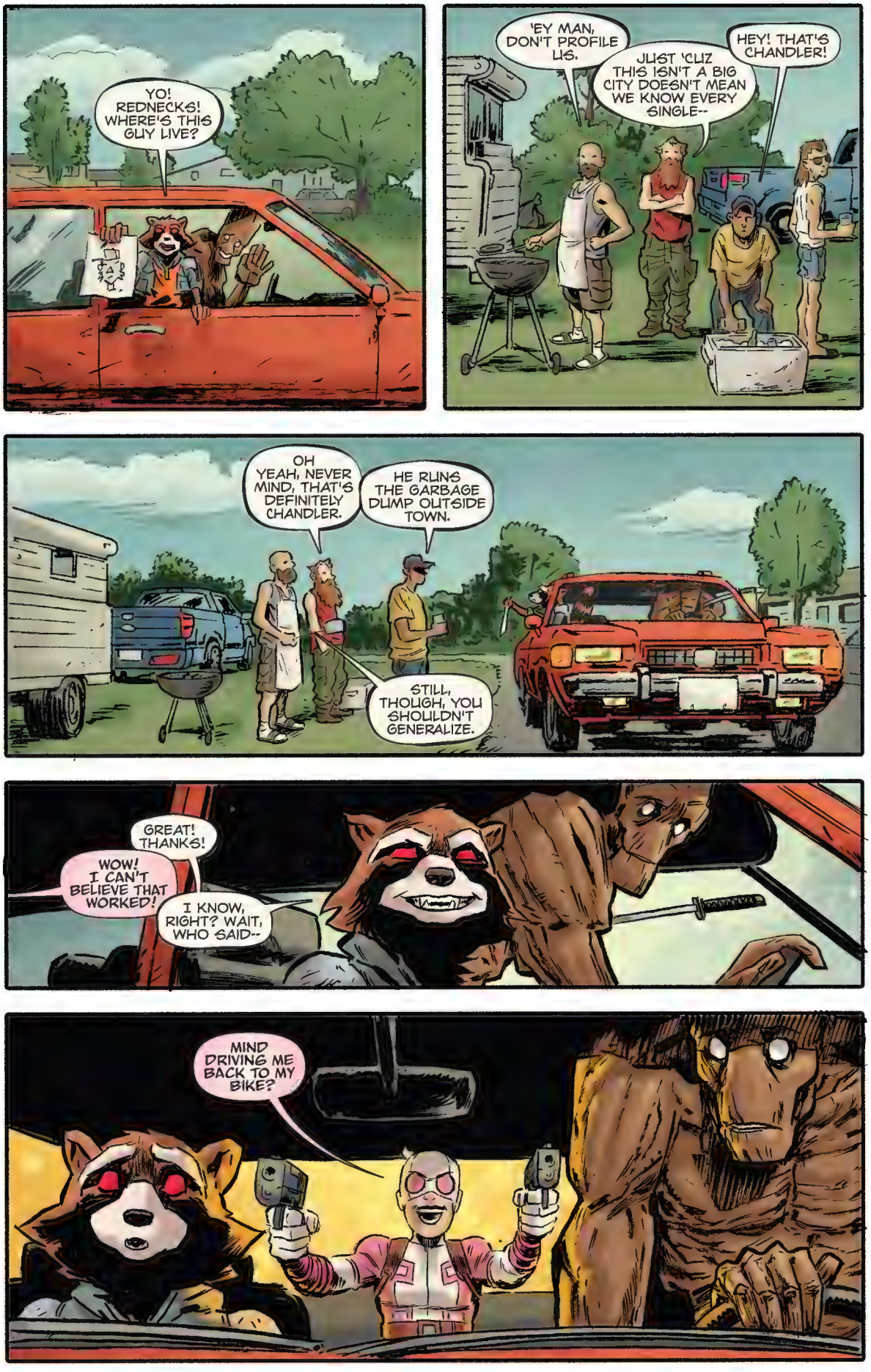
OH. WELL, ACTUALLY, CAROL, WE WERE HOPING TO STICK AROUND.
WE'VE NEVER SEEN THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY AND--
SO YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO DO YOUR SECRET SELF-SERVING PLAN YET?
THERE'S NO SECRET SELF-SERVING--


LOOK, HEAD BACK NOW OR BECOME SOMETHING I DEAL WITH PERSONALLY!
--PSKHHH-- BREAKING UP--CAN'T HEAR--PSSKHH-- BATTERY DYING-- SKRR.


ROCKET. THESE COMMUNICATORS ARE POWERED BY MINI-ARC REACTORS...

KRUNCH
...THEY DON'T RUN OUT OF BATTERI--

ALL RIGHT. I DON'T THINK SHE'S ONTO US, BUT WE GOTTA FIND CHAMMY FAST.


YO! REDNECKS! WHERE'S THIS GUY LIVE?
'EY MAN, DON'T PROFILE US.
JUST 'CUZ THIS ISN'T A BIG CITY DOESN'T MEAN WE KNOW EVERY SINGLE--
HEY! THAT'S CHANDLER!
OH YEAH, NEVER MIND, THAT'S DEFINITELY CHANDLER.
HE RUNS THE GARBAGE DUMP OUTSIDE TOWN.
STILL, THOUGH, YOU SHOULDN'T GENERALIZE.
GREAT! THANKS!
WOW! I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT WORKED!
I KNOW, RIGHT? WAIT, WHO SAID--
MIND DRIVING ME BACK TO MY BIKE?

C'MON, SWORD! COME OUT!
WHATEVER. BUT I'LL NEED THAT BACK AT SOME POINT.
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO BUY ANOTHER ONE. SWORD SALESMEN ARE SUPER PERVY.
OH DANG, NOTE TO SELF: STOP UNDERESTIMATING TREE.
VRRRM
SNAP

I MEAN, WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER TWO YEARS AND I FEEL LIKE I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU!
I'M SORRY.
DO YOU HAVE ANY AMBITION? OR DO YOU WANT TO SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE *LITERALLY* WORKING IN A DUMP?
I HEAR YOU.
QUIT APOLOGIZING AND TALK TO ME, YOU LOSER! CAN'T YOU SEE I'M UPSET?!
UH...I BOUGHT YOU SOMETHING?
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP!
WHAT IS THAT?
NOTHING!
I HAVE TO GO TO THE BATHROOM.
I'M SENDING YOU COORDINATES NOW. A SMUGGLER WILL MEET YOU AT THAT LOCATION AND GET YOU OFF THE PLANET.
YES! THANK YOU, GUS! YOU'RE A LIFESAVER.
YEAH, WELL, DON'T MENTION IT.
BZZZ
CHANDLER! THERE'S A RACCOON AND A PINK LADY FIGHTING ON OUR LAWN!
GOTTA GO. THANKS AGAIN, AND REMEMBER--

--KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR REEVE. IF HE FOUND OUT I'M ON EARTH, HE MIGHT KNOW WHERE YOU ARE.
WILL DO. THANKS FOR THE HEADS-UP.
BLOOP
OKAY. I DID EVERYTHING YOU SAID.
SO I CAN GO NOW, RIGHT?
HE'S GOING TO THE COORDINATES! I DID *WHAT YOU SAID*. WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT? I TOLD YOU EVERY-THING!
NO...

...NOW YOU'VE TOLD ME EVERY-THING.
NEXT STOP... EARTH.
TO BE CONTINUED!!!

NEXT:

ROCKET RACCOON & GROOT 9